



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – March 7, 2012
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Daniel Esty
Presented By Susan Frechette

Raised House Bill No. 5261 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE HUNTING OF DEER WITH A PISTOL

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5261 – An Act Concerning the Hunting of Deer with a Pistol. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports this bill as it is consistent with the intent of the original statute to allow safe and effective hunting of deer with a handgun. Raised House Bill No. 5261 will expand handgun options for deer hunters to include firearms that have been specifically developed for big-game hunting. These firearms provide increased accuracy and effectiveness and should be among the choices available to Connecticut sportsmen who hunt deer with handguns. Some of the most advanced and effective handgun hunting options are not currently allowed under existing state statute because they have a barrel length of 12"-14" or don't fall under the traditional definition of a "revolver" or because they use shouldered cartridges of calibers between 6 mm and .357 inches. These were unintentional exclusions that would be corrected by the proposed legislation with the substitute language offered by the Department.

In summary, DEEP supports Raised House Bill No. 5261. However, the DEEP does recommend the following substitute language to better clarify the intent of the legislation.

Section 1. Section 26-82a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2012*):

The Commissioner shall issue, upon payment of a five-dollar fee, to the owner of ten or more acres of private land or a resident of this state, who has the consent of the owner of ten or more acres of private land, a [private land revolver or pistol] permit that allows the use of a [revolver, as defined in section 29-27,] handgun to hunt deer from November first to December thirty-first, inclusive, pursuant to the bag limit established for a private land deer permit under subsection (a) of section 26-86a. For purposes of this section, "handgun" means a firearm with a rifled bore intended to be fired from a handheld position and to hold individual cartridges in individual chambers, whether multiple chambers arrayed in a

cylinder or a single chamber. Any such handgun that conforms with the definition of a “Pistol” or “Revolver” pursuant to section 29-27 shall be subject to the provisions of title 29. Any person authorized to hunt deer [by revolver or single-shot pistol] pursuant to this section shall use [a cartridge of .357 caliber or larger for such purpose] straight-walled cartridges of .357 caliber or larger or shouldered cartridges of 6 millimeter or larger.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP’s legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov